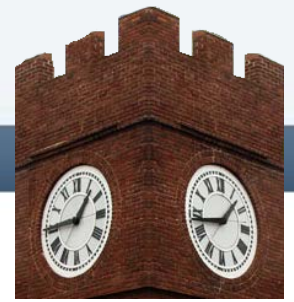




# Veterans Trail

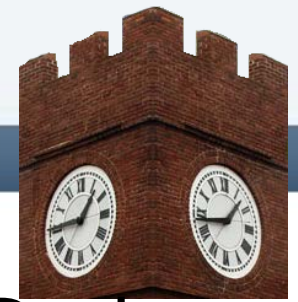
Presented by Eric Hutchinson  
City of Hudson Parks

Tuesday, June 11, 2013



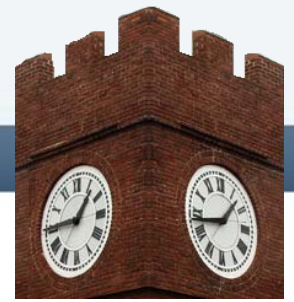
# Veterans Trail History

- In 1999, Park Board undertook a Master Planning process.
- The first step in this process was a survey of Hudson residents.
  - 79% of adults surveyed ranked multi-purpose trails as the most important need
  - 76% of adults surveyed ranked trails that link neighborhoods to parks as important
  - 68% of adults surveyed ranked trails that link the city together as important
- As a result, the Parks Master Plan prominently features the establishment of a citywide trail network
- Upon completion, this plan was approved by the Park Board and City Council in 2000.



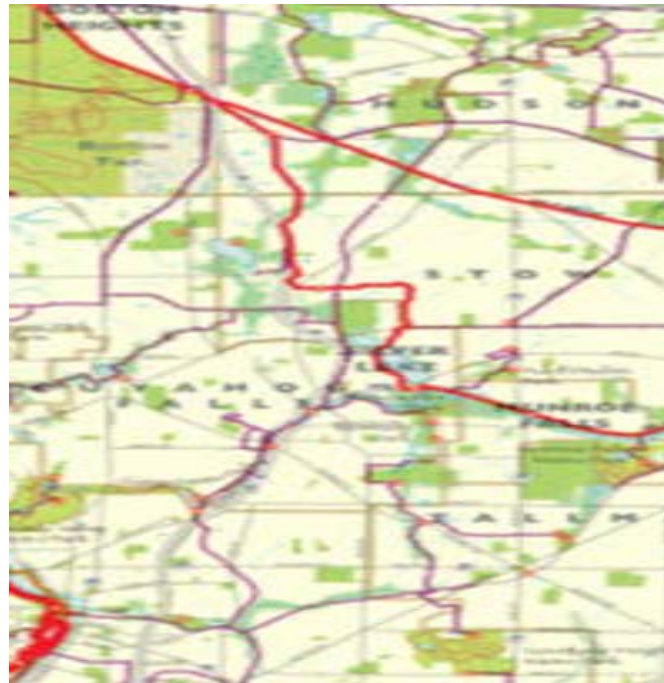
# Connectivity Plan as shown in the Parks Master Plan



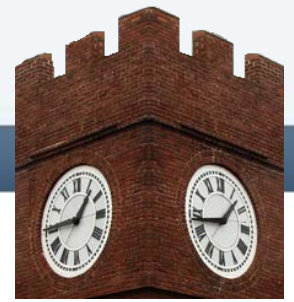


# Summit County Trail and Greenway Plan

- Originally approved in 2001, updated annually



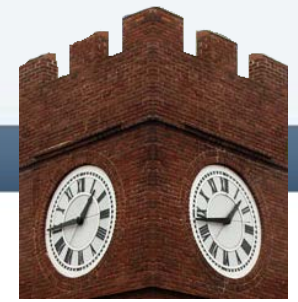
City of Hudson, Ohio



# Veterans Trail History

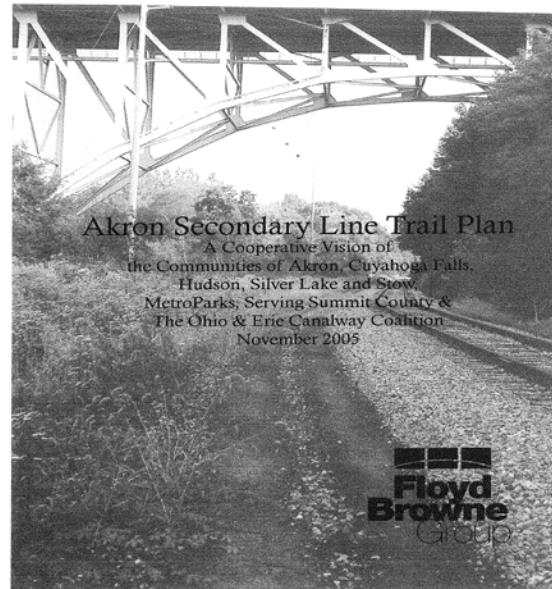
- Park Board and Park staff have always listed this project as its highest priority.
- For years, attempted to begin Veterans Trail south of downtown.
- Progress has been limited due to conflicting desires of current property owners.

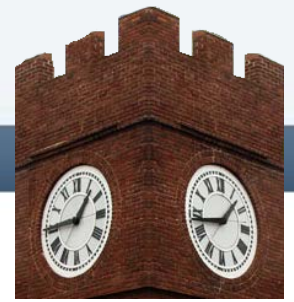




# Feasibility Study

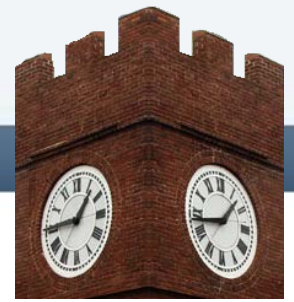
- Partnered with Stow, Silver Lake, Cuyahoga Falls on feasibility study for trail south of downtown Hudson in 2005.





# 2009 Needs Assessment

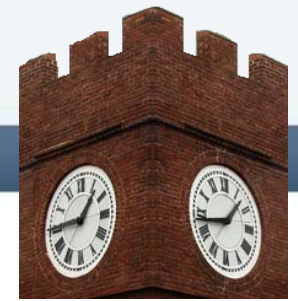
- In 2009, Park Board undertook a Needs Assessment to determine resident priorities.
- The first step in this process was a survey of Hudson residents.
  - 88% of adults surveyed ranked nature trails as a high or medium priority.
  - 74% of adults surveyed ranked trails that connect neighborhoods to downtown as a high or medium priority.
  - 74% of adults surveyed ranked trails that connect parks as a high or medium priority.
  - 75% of adults surveyed ranked trails that connect to Cuyahoga Valley National Park or Metro Parks Serving Summit County as a high or medium priority.
- These findings reinforced the high value that Hudson residents place on trails and connectivity.



# Veterans Trail History

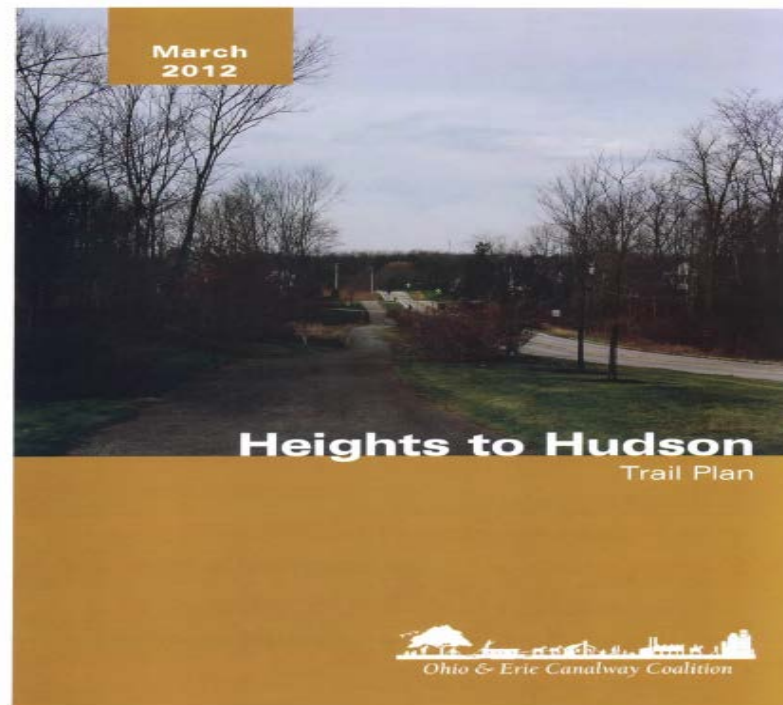
- In 2012, Park staff was approached by Village of Boston Heights who hoped to begin their section of trail.
  - They hoped to have the funds available in construct trail in conjunction with much needed road work.
  - They wanted to partner on a trail feasibility study and hoped that we would be interested in construction Hudson's portion of trail in increase regional impact.
- The Park Board decided to pursue this trail section first because Hines Hill was being repaved and we hoped to realize a cost savings if the project could be completed as the road work was completed.



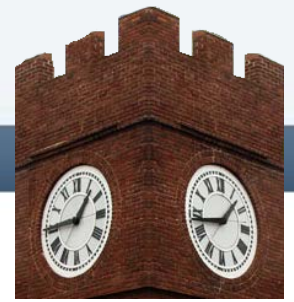


# Feasibility Study

- Partnered with Village of Boston Heights on feasibility study for trail north of downtown Hudson in 2012.



City of Hudson, Ohio

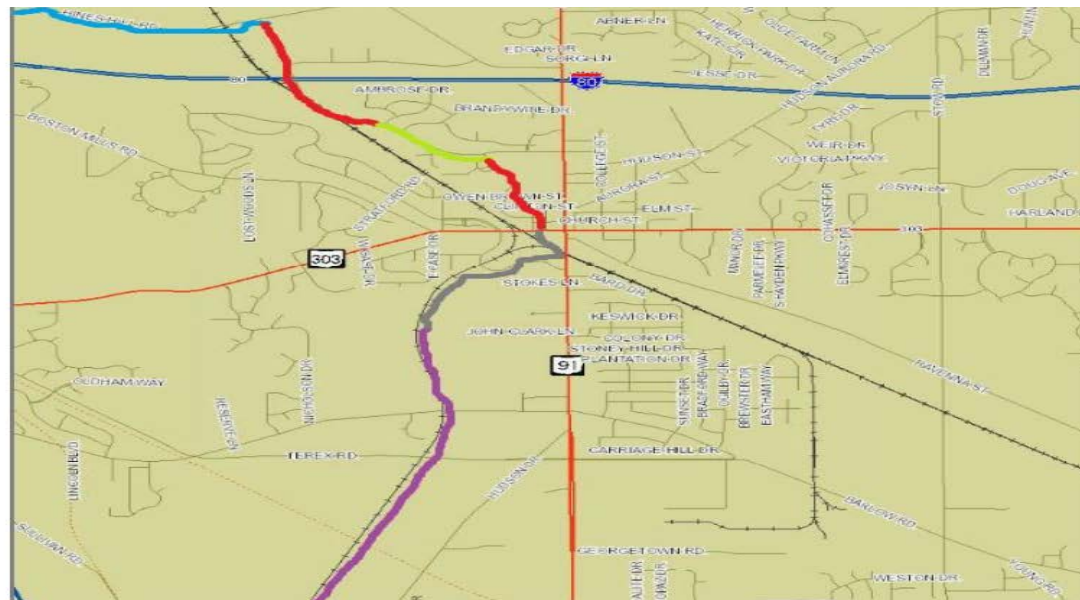


# Veterans Trail History

- Based on potential future costs, Park staff immediately began searching for alternative funding to leverage tax dollars.
  - Clean Ohio Trails Fund, administered by ODNR
  - AMATS funding
- Meeting with ODNR
  - A site visit revealed their desire to assist with funding.
  - They suggested the project be broken into \$1 million segments to increase chances for successful applications.
  - Grant applications showing significant community involvement would garner extra points.
  - Grant application was submitted on 2/1/13.
  - Grants will be awarded 8/1/13 for funding in FY2014.



# Phases of Veterans Trail Broken into Segments



**Proposed 2013 Segment**

**Proposed 2014 Segment**

**Existing Segment**

**Proposed 2015 Segment**

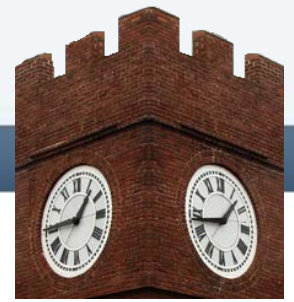
**Proposed 2016 Segment**

City of Hudson, Ohio



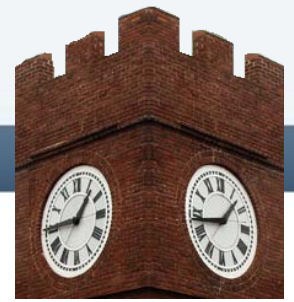
# Friends of Hudson Parks

- The Friends of Hudson Parks stepped forward and sought out community support of the project.
  - They received letters of support from 34 individuals and organizations.
    - Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Metro Parks Serving Summit County
    - Summit County Executive Russ Pry
    - State Representative Kristina Roegner
    - Ohio Senator Frank LaRose
    - Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and Western Reserve Land Conservancy
    - Safe Routes Hudson, Destination Hudson and Hudson Library and Historical Society
    - Merchants of Hudson, Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce, and Hudson Village Finance Company
    - Hudson Preschool Parents and Hudson Parent Teacher Organization
  - They received financial pledges from 6 individuals and organizations.
    - Burton Morgan Foundation
    - Summa Western Reserve Hospital
    - Friends of Hudson Parks



# Potential Funding of Trail

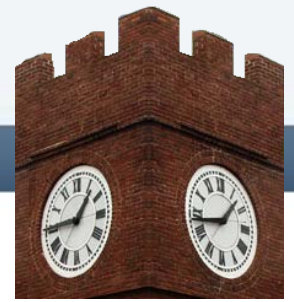
- 2013 Phase 1- \$800,000 from Parks budget
- 2014 Phase 2- \$1,000,000
  - \$650,000 from ODNR
  - \$350,000 from Parks budget
- 2015 Phase 3- \$1,000,000
  - \$650,000 from ODNR
  - \$350,000 from Parks budget
- 2016 Phase 4- \$1,000,000
  - \$700,000 from AMATS
  - \$300,000 from Parks budget



# Why build this trail?

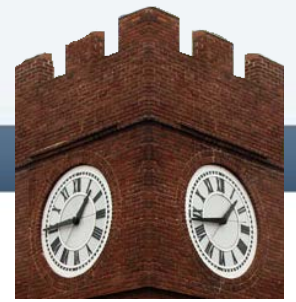
- The residents of Hudson desire connectivity. This trail has often been referred to as the “Spine Trail” as it will serve as the main connection in the proposed trail system.
- There will be an economic impact to the downtown area as residents will have a direct connection to businesses and the Hudson Library.
- There will be a connection to the Bike and Hike Trail at both ends of town. These connections offer immediate connectivity to this 33-mile long trail.





# Why build this section first?

- Moving forward on Phase 1 in 2013 will help the chances of grant funding in Phase 2.
- Residents will be able to access this trail immediately by using existing parking areas.
- In just two years, we can have a trail that extends from our border with the Village of Boston Heights to our historic downtown area.



# Questions?



# City of Hudson, Ohio

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